

**EOPOA23000 – SERVICES TO PRINT THE PRESIDENT’S FY 2004 BUDGET
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q 1. Can all text pages be printed and trimmed to 8.5" to avoid waste in trimming the perfect bound version to 8.25"?

A 1. No. The trimming specifications are not subject to change. The Budget is an annual set of documents that dates back to 1921 and form a serial bookshelf set that is to be of the same dimensions from year to year.

Q 2. Are perfect bound covers printed only one side? If not, what inks are used on cover pages 2 & 3?

A 2. See Section 1-2(f) PRINTING: which indicates that pages 2 & 3 of the perfect bound covers are blank.

Q 3. Does page count for each book include blank pages within chapters/sections, and/or end of each book?

A 3. The page count includes all pages, blank or otherwise, that fall between the cover.

Q 4. Are blank pages allowed at end of each book, and if yes, what is maximum allowable number of blank pages?

A 4. The maximum number of allowable blank pages at the end of each book is one less than a signature, or 15 pages. If a signature larger than 16 pages is employed, the blank page limit is still 15 pages. The word "Notes" will be added as a centered heading to blank end pages if there are more than 4 such pages. The Government will attempt to edit the layout of the final product to avoid excessive blank end pages for each volume.

Q 5. Do casebound book endleaves print, and if yes, what are ink colors?

A 5. There is no printing on the endleaves of the casebound book.

Q 6. Is a hinge score on front cover of each perfect bound book required?

A 6. No hinge score is required on perfect bound books.

Q 7. What is meant by "-2" and "+2" in the pricing matrix?

A 7. -2 refers to two signatures less than the target estimate. In the final specification, signatures for all volumes were changed to assume a signature of 16 pages. Thus -2 refers to 32 pages less than (and +2 refers to 32 pages more than) the target estimate for each volume. Similarly, -1 and +1, refer to 16 pages less than and 16 pages more than (respectively) the target estimate for each volume.

Q 8. Shall pricing submitted for print production and binding include any packaging, and if yes, how are books packaged for shipment to the select packaging and distribution contractor?

A 8. Yes. Pricing for packaging and shipment to the distribution contractor is to be included in the offer as part of the setup figure for each volume. The packaging is up to the non-distribution contractor after consultation with the distribution contractor, but must in any event assure the arrival of the printer matter at its destination in a satisfactory and usable condition.

Q 9. Since the location of the packaging and distribution contractor is unknown, shall printers submit bid pricing as F.O.B. printers dock?

A 9. No. Since all contractors and facilities, including the distribution contractor, must reside within the 50-mile geographic radius of the zero milestone, Washington, DC, inter-contractor deliveries are considered local delivery and, thus, contractor location should not affect materially the offeror's pricing.

Q 10. Are printers who are not established and certified by GPO as Level 2 quality allowed to bid, and if yes, what procedure will GAO use to determine that those printers are capable of Level 2 quality prior to award?

A 10. Offerors are not required to be established and certified by GPO as Level II quality, however they must perform to GPO's Level II quality assurance levels and standards on this contract. Offerors submissions should include information on any currently held quality certification levels, commendations, awards or other recognitions conferred by the GPO, industry associations, or commercial standards organizations.

Q 11. What is the schedule for procurement and production/delivery?

A 11. See Section 5-8(d) for schedule of electronic delivery of Government Furnished PDF files and Section 4-1(d) for contractor delivery schedule of finished goods to the distribution contractor or to the Government.

Q 12. (Inquirer's Suggestion): Please state in the final specification that crop/trim corner marks will appear on every page and cover supplied by GAO as digital files, and/or camera ready copy. Further, all elements of a page should be fully and properly composed within the crop/trim corner marks on each page. Printer should only be responsible for preflighting and trapping.

A 12. Crop/trim marks, as well as other printer marks as specified in Section 5-8: Government Furnished Material, are the responsibility of the contractor, along with color separation, trapping and other aspects listed in 5-8(e). See also proof requirements regarding color control parts, tint patches and dot gain scale in Section 1-2(d).